

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PANAMA 05605 061630Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-02 INR-07 /024 W
-----014668 061638Z /45

R 051643Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3060
INFO PANCANAL
USCINCSO

UNCLAS PANAMA 5605

DEPT FOR ARA/PAN AND PAF
CINCSO FOR J-2 AND PAO
PANCANAL FOR IO

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, PN
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTIONS

FOLG SENT ACTION PRIORITY USINFO INFO DEPT P R 051640Z AUG 77
FROM USIS/PANAMA RPTD YOUR INFO

QUOTE
UNCLAS

STATE FOR ARA/PAF AND PAN

EO 11652: N/A

1. PANAMA CITY--BOGOTA SUMMIT: ALL MEDIA AUG. 5 HEADLINE BOGOTA
SUMMIT MEETING TO OPEN TODAY, EMPHASIZING THAT CONFERENCE WILL
DISCUSS PROPOSED CANAL TREATY. PRO-GOP MATUTINO HEADS EFE STORY,
"BOGOTA SUMMIT IS WATCHED BY U.S. WITH INTEREST AND RESPECT."

2. MATUTINO EDIT SAYS THOSE WHO BELIEVE SUMMIT WILL QUICKLY BE
FORGOTTEN ARE WRONG, THAT IT IS SIGNIFICANT MEETING, CALLED TO
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 PANAMA 05605 061630Z

DISCUSS "PRESENCE OF COLONIAL ENCLAVE WITHIN AREA...A PHENOMENON
WHICH AFFECTS AND THREATENS FULL LIBERTY OF CONTINENT."

3. SIMI-INDEPENDENT LA ESTRELLA EDIT, ALSO DEDICATED TO SUMMIT,
POINTS OUT PAST SUPPORT OF PARTICIPATING NATIONS FOR PANAMANIAN
CAUSE: "AND TODAY IN BOGOTA THEIR HIGHEST AUTHORITIES WILL HAVE
OPPORTUNITY TO RATIFY SOLIDARITY AND AT SAME TIME TO TELL

PRES. CARTER THAT PANAMA IS NOT ALONE IN THIS TRANSCENDENTAL STEP OF ITS HISTORY, AND THAT CONSCIENCE OF AMERICA WILL NOW FOLLOW... ALL DETAILS RELATED TO SIGNING AND RATIFICATION OF TREATY WHICH IS AT POINT OF BEING CULMINATED."

4. PRO-GOP AFTERNOONER LA REPUBLICA EDIT AUG 4 EXPRESSES APPRECIATION FOR SUPPORT FROM OTHER NATIONS AT SUMMIT: "IN LATAM ONE HAS IMPRESSION THAT NEXT DAYS WILL BE DECISIVE FOR PANAMANIAN CAUSE...FOR THIS REASON SINCERE AND DECISIVE VOICES OF SUPPORT...ARRIVE FROM OTHER NATIONS WHO SEE IN CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS A LATAM PROBLEM."

5. TREATY NEGOTIATION: LA ESTRELLA AND ENGLISH STAR AND HERALD RUN FRONT PAGE PANAMA DATELINE ANNE ORTIZ AP STORY SAYING US AND PANAMA WILL COMPLETE CONCEPTUAL STAGE OF WORK ON NEW TREATY BY END OF NEXT WEEK. STORY QUOTES "SOURCE CLOSE OT U.S. SIDE" SA SAY-ING "THE TREATY IS ALMOST IN THE BAG."

6. MATUTINO AND CRITICA FRONT PAGE DECLARATIONS BY PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS THAT UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL MAJOR LAYOFFS TAKE PLACE AMONG PANAMANIAN EMPLOYEES OF CANAL ZONE AFTER TREATY IS SIGNED. STATEMENTS FOLLOWED CIRCULATION OF DOCUMENT, WHOSE VERACITY DENIED BY ZONE OFFICIALS, SAYING SEVERAL THOUSAND NON-AMERICAN WORKERS WOULD LOSE THEIR JOBS UPON SIGNING OF TREATY.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 PANAMA 05605 061630Z

7. CRITICA EDIT ACCUSES ZONE LABOR LEADER ALFRED GRAHAM OF BEING SOURCE OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENT, AND PRAISES PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT'S QUICK DENIAL OF CHARGES: "THIS CATEGORIC PRONOUNCEMENT ABOVE ALL WILL TEND TO LIFT SPIRITS OF PANAMANIAN WORKING MASSES WHO ARE EXECUTIVE FORCE AND LARGE PART OF TECHNICAL SUPPORT WHICH MOBILIZES THE CANAL (AND GIVE THEM) CONFIDENCE THAT NEW TREATY, IF IT IS SIGNED, WILL PROVIDE THEM FULL LABOR JUSTICE WHICH UP TO NOW THEY HAVE SEEN SYSTEMATICALLY DENIED."

8. CRITICA GOSSIP COLUMN DESDE EL CAFETIN SAYS ENTITY TO RUN CANAL UNDER NEW TREATY WILL CONSIST OF FIVE AMERICANS AND FOUR PANAMANIAN, WITH US MANAGER AND PANAMANIAN SUB-DIRECTOR. CAFETIN SAYS ARCHITECT AND PANAMANIAN NEGOTIATOR EDWIN FABREGA WILL BE NAMED SUB-DIRECTOR OF NEW ENTITY, AND APPLAUDS HIS QUALIFICATIONS.

9. LA REPUBLICA COLUMNIST MARIO AUGUSTO WRITES AUG. 4 ON NEUTRALITY AND DEFENSE OF CANAL, SUGGESTING PANAMA WILL BECOME NEUTRAL ENCLAVE SUCH AS SWITZERLAND. AUGUSTO GRANTS THAT "U.S. WILL MAINTAIN, NOMINALLY, CERTAIN RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITY IN DEFENSE OF INTEROCEANIC WAY. BUT SUCH RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITY DO NOT INCLUDE MILITARY INTERVENTION OF ANY

OTHER SORT WITHIN JURISDICTIONAL LIMITS OF PANAMANIAN NATION,
WHICH WILL INCLUDE CANAL ZONE...AND DEFENSE OF CANAL CANNOT BE
MADE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES WITHIN OUR TERRITORY."

10. AUGUSTO BELIEVES MAJOR INTERNAL THREAT TO CANAL WOULD BE
FROM SABOTAGE, WHICH LARGE MILITARY INSTALLATIONS COULD NOT
PREVENT. BUT "BEST DEFENSE...IS ABOVE ALL OUR OWN PEOPLE, WHO
HAVE DEMONSTRATED DURING 70 YEARS...NOT ONLY SUFFICIENT
CAPACITY BUT ALSO SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY TO MAINTAIN CANAL
FUNCTIONING." ITEM
UNQUOTE

GONZALEZ

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, SUMMIT MEETINGS, CANALS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PANAMA05605
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770283-0166
Format: TEL
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770893/aaaadakj.tel
Line Count: 128
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 56f36f61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1698440
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEDIA REACTIONS FOLG SENT ACTION PRIORITY USINFO INFO DEPT P R 051640Z AUG 77 FROM USIS/PANAMA RPTD YOUR INFO
TAGS: SOPN, EWWT, PN, CO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/56f36f61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009